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JANUARY-MARCH 2026



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BROOKLYN LAUNDRY

BY JOHN PATRICK SHANLEY

Jan. 30 - Feb. 15 The Savoy Denver
Feb. 20 - Mar. 15 Dairy Arts Center

From the Oscar-winning, Tony-winning, Pulitzer-winning writer of *Moonstruck* and *Doubt* comes a new play about three sisters, a guy who operates a laundromat and the random tricks life plays on them for better or worse.

Tragic and funny by turns, this deeply romantic story will remind you what is important in life and the sorrow and joy of fully embracing adulthood.

Like many of Shanley's plays, the story pits the quest for love and happiness against the demands of family obligations.

"Stanley keeps the play moving ruthlessly forward, peppering what sounds like the grimmest of tales with wry humor."

— THE CHICAGO READER

Sat., Feb. 14, 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm Dairy Arts Center

Fireflies

by Matthew Barber



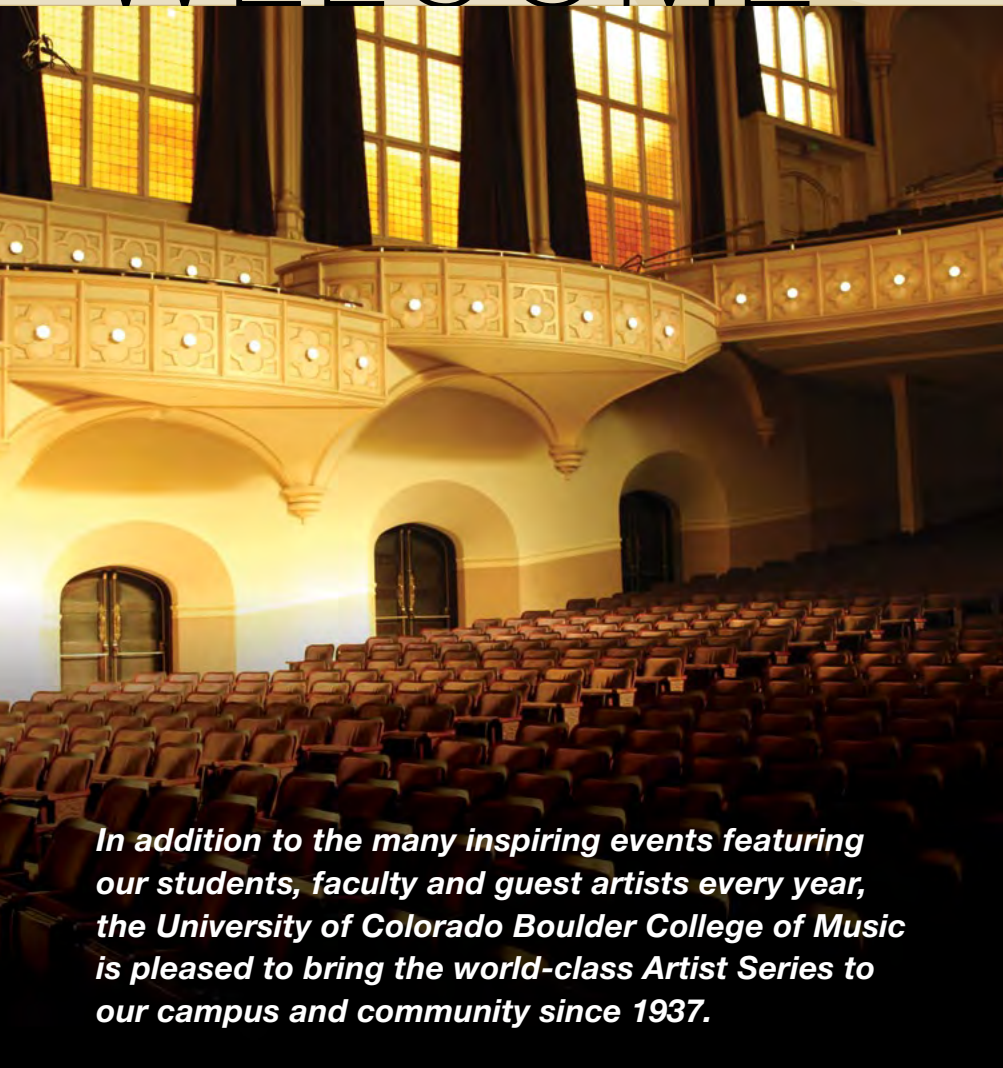
A Valentine's outing featuring champagne, roses, and Matthew Barber's romantic comedy, *Fireflies*.

Eleanor Bannister is a retired school teacher and a model of respectability. She lives a quiet and lonely life until Abel Brown comes to town. A handyman and drifter, the smooth-talking Brown does more than fix Eleanor's roof.

The town begins to talk. Can Abel be trusted?

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WELCOME



In addition to the many inspiring events featuring our students, faculty and guest artists every year, the University of Colorado Boulder College of Music is pleased to bring the world-class Artist Series to our campus and community since 1937.

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CU ★ PRESENTS

JANUARY-MARCH 2026

CU Presents is the home of performing arts on the beautiful University of Colorado Boulder campus. With hundreds of concerts, plays, recitals and more on our stages each year, there's something for everyone to enjoy:

- The **College of Music** including the Artist Series; Takács Quartet; Eklund Opera Program; Holiday Festival; Musical Theatre Program; and hundreds of free events featuring faculty, students and guest artists.
- The **Colorado Shakespeare Festival**.
- The College of Arts and Science's **Department of Theatre & Dance**.

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College of Music cover: Promotional art for *Oklahoma!*
Takács Quartet cover: The Balourdet Quartet. Photo by Luke Ratray.



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Danú Brings Its Own “Sound of Ireland” to Boulder for the Fifth Time

By Adam Goldstein

The music of Danú represents a fusion of different musical traditions, arrangements and styles. Most of the members of the Irish music ensemble formed in 1994 are from the same country (with the exception of Billy Sutton, who hails from Newfoundland), but that doesn't mean their traditional musical backgrounds are uniform. When Danú returns to Boulder to play for the fifth time at Macky Auditorium on March 11, they'll all bring unique perspectives forged from distinct musical traditions across the relatively small country of Ireland.

“Our members come from Waterford, Dublin, Cork, Donegal—and even County Newfoundland! Naturally, each of us grew up steeped in the music of our own home places and those regional influences shape how we play,” says founding member Benny McCarthy. “When we come together to arrange our songs and sets of tunes, we bring all those backgrounds to the Danú table. The result is what we feel is our own ‘sound of Ireland,’ a sound we’ve maintained and grown for 31 years now.”

That approach has earned Danú a hallowed place in the roster of contemporary Irish trad bands that are keeping the music alive, even as they’re finding ways to innovate and evolve. The band’s music draws from all the age-old musical traditions. Jigs, reels, airs and ballads are all on the menu for the band and their catalogue includes unique spins on tunes that would be familiar to anyone who’s attended a good Irish session.

But even with this strong sense of tradition firmly in place, Danú has spent the past three decades bringing new dimensions to familiar music. Thanks to the across-the-board virtuosity of the current lineup—as well as the band’s skill for combining new, original music with beloved standards—Danú has set itself apart. According to McCarthy, the band plans to stay on that trajectory in 2026. Following up on the release of their latest record, *The Pearl Album*, Danú will start the year with appearances at the TradFest Dublin and Celtic Connections Glasgow festivals in January before they head to Boulder in March.

Their journey to Boulder will serve as a perfect complement to those high-profile festival gigs. The band has played at CU Boulder in 2010, 2013, 2017 and 2022 and the campus has become a go-to destination for Danú to visit in the United States.

“Colorado has always offered us a warm welcome and Boulder in particular has a vibrant, open-hearted arts community,” McCarthy says. “There’s also something about the landscape—the mountains, the space, the sense of freedom—that feels familiar to us as Irish musicians. Every time we return, it feels a bit like coming home.”

He adds that playing in Boulder echoes the broader appeal of playing Irish music abroad to audiences who aren’t as familiar with the distinctions between regional styles and idioms.

“Abroad, especially in the U.S., we meet audiences who are incredibly curious, attentive and enthusiastic. They love hearing the background of the tunes, the history and the humor behind the songs,” he says. “It reaches people of Irish heritage and people with no Irish background whatsoever. Bringing the music to international audiences keeps it alive, evolving and relevant.”

Danú performs on the Artist Series at Macky Auditorium on March 11, 2026.



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UPCOMING EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

ARTIST SERIES

Macky Auditorium

Feb. 11: **Versa-Style Street Dance Company**

March 11: **Danú**

March 28: **Bang on a Can All-Stars**

April 11: **Michael Feinstein in Big Band Broadway**

2026-27 Artist Series to be announced March 24.



*Versa-Style Street Dance.
Photo credit: Timothy Salaz.*



Balourdet Quartet. Photo credit: Luke Rathay.

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EKLUND OPERA AND MUSICAL THEATRE AT THE COLLEGE OF MUSIC

Macky Auditorium and the Music Theatre

March 6-8: **Oklahoma!**

By Rodgers and Hammerstein

April 16-19: **The Cunning Little Vixen**

By Leoš Janáček

OKLAHOMA: Presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of The Rodgers & Hammerstein Organization. concordtheatricals.com





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DEPT. OF THEATRE & DANCE

University Theatre Building

Jan. 30-Feb. 1: **Catapult**

A BFA dance concert

Feb. 20-March 1: **Mr. Burns, a post-electric play**

By Anne Washburn and Michael Friedman

April 2-5: **The Current**

Dance works by faculty and guest artists

April 10-19: **The Prom**

By Chad Beguelin, Bob Martin and Matthew Sklar

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Latin American Ensemble (2023).
Photo credit: Erika O'Connor

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An Innovative, Timeless Classic



By Henry Michaels

In the world of musical theatre, there are very few works as widely recognizable as *Oklahoma!* Scratch that—in the world of music *or* theatre, there are very few works as widely recognizable as *Oklahoma!* And from March 6-8, 2026, audiences can recognize and enjoy all the many classic numbers from this spirited Western romance at Macky Auditorium.

Oklahoma!—the first collaboration of many in the long and storied partnership between composer Richard Rodgers and lyricist and librettist Oscar Hammerstein II—was a groundbreaking work that helped redefine the genre of musical theatre. Unlike many earlier musicals, *Oklahoma!* featured the seamless combination of music, choreography and drama into a cohesive whole wherein song and dance serve to advance the plot. “One of the most impressive—and new—things about *Oklahoma!* was the integration of text and music,” says Nicholas Carthy, professor of opera and music director of the Eklund Opera Program, “the way each musical number grows organically out of the characters’ emotional lives, simply pressing pause on the horizontality of the action to explore the verticality of the character.”

This production is the joint effort of two CU Boulder College of Music programs: The Musical Theatre Program and the Eklund Opera Program, an important collaboration that takes place every couple of years. “*Oklahoma!* straddles the genre of opera and modern-day musical,” says Carthy. “It involves a very different approach than, say, *Cabaret*, which they just staged last semester.”

“All these different genres are an absolutely essential part of our students’ education. To give them the possibility to perform opera and musical on a large stage with a full orchestra—with costumes and lighting and everything else—is what makes their time at CU so special, and is an indispensable part of their preparation for their future careers.”

Since its premiere in 1943, *Oklahoma!* has been a staple of the stage, boasting countless productions at all levels, thousands of individual performances and numerous references throughout popular culture. “*Oklahoma!* endures because it represents a perfect mix of innovation, emotional truth and Americana,” says Carthy. “It captures the tensions and dichotomy

of human existence: The promise of a new life, a new frontier, coupled with the anxiety and fear of change. Its characters dream of new, fantastic things, but also fear deeply, and it is those universal impulses that resonate far beyond the 1907 setting.

“The score matches all this perfectly with soaring, unforgettable melodies and with harmonic tension, perfectly aligned to the characters and their story. *Oklahoma!* tells a universal and eternal story, one which we recognize deep within ourselves.”

The CU Boulder College of Music Musical Theatre Program and Eklund Opera Program present Oklahoma! in Macky Auditorium March 6-8, 2026.



A new beat: Transformed CU Boulder percussion studio prepares musicians for every stage

By MarieFaith Lane

The CU Boulder College of Music’s percussion studio is taking bold steps forward with a revamped curriculum and a renewed focus on versatility, collaboration and joy in music making.

Associate Teaching Professor of Percussion Michael Tetreault says nearly every aspect of the program has been reimagined with one goal in mind: To prepare percussionists to thrive in any musical setting.

“An awful lot is new and an awful lot has changed,” shares Tetreault. “Every student at every level—undergraduate, master’s, doctoral, artist diploma—studies all five major percussion areas including marimba, timpani, snare drum, drum set and world percussion.”

Tetreault underscores the studio’s mission to ensure that every student graduates with a strong foundation across percussion instruments, ready to pursue specialized interests or advanced degrees: “An undergraduate should be able to get into any graduate program they want,” he says. “Our goal is that students’ education here is more than sufficient to unlock any door.”

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Versa-Style Street Dance

Rooted Rhythms • Feb. 11

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The Center for African and African American Studies (acronym: the CAAAS, and commonly called the Cause) is the research, creative work, and programming division of the broader Black Studies community at the University of Colorado Boulder.

Established in May 2021 by Reiland Rabaka, along with student leaders Audrea Fryar, Ruth Woldemichael, Karia White and Isaiah Chavous, the CAAAS is the focal point for campus and community life grounded in, and growing out of the historical, cultural, spiritual, sociopolitical, economic, and artistic experiences of Africans, African Americans, and the African diaspora.



colorado.edu/center/caaas

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ARTIST SERIES

Versa-Style Street Dance Company

Rooted Rhythms

Feb. 11 2026

Macky Auditorium

Founders/Artistic Directors/Choreographers

Jackie “Miss Funk” Lopez-Foaad

Leigh “Breeze-Lee” Foaad

Technical Director

Chris Hudacs

Touring/Production Director

Brandon “BeastBoi” Juezan

Rehearsal Director

Cynthia “Divina” Hernandez

Hip Hop/Street Dance Company Artists

Jackie “Miss Funk” Lopez-Foaad

Leigh “Breeze-Lee” Foaad

Harry “Full Out” Weston

Cynthia “Divina” Hernandez

Ernesto “Precise” Galarza

Brandon “BeastBoi” Juezan

Anthony “Berry Groove” Berry

Brianna “Passion” Grey

Ceanne “CyKlone” Agustin

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PROGRAM

Street Heritage

Music credits: *Cien Años* by Natalia Lafourcade; *La salsa la traigo yo* by Sonora Carruseles; *Jump On It* by Kid The Wiz

Welcome/Intro

Extensions

Music credits: *The Great Gig in The Sky* by Pink Floyd; *Transitions* by Dennis Ferrer

Street Dance Pioneers Video

Funk Angeles

Music credits: Original Track by Legend Da Beatslaya

Intermission

Pathways

Music credits: *NALA* and *THE HYPERBOLIC TIME CHAMBER* by REYDY

Lost Minds/Rebirth

Music credits: *Isis (instrumental)* by Joyner Lucas; *Ishikari* by Geode

Enter The Cypher

Music credits: *Rej Against The Machine* by Tomahawk Bang

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

ROOTED RHYTHMS is Versa-Style's mixed repertory production, consisting of the company's most popular works from the last 20 years. This mixed repertory program pays homage to Street Dance styles such as Whacking, Popping and House dance, as well as a blend of Afro-Latin styles such as Salsa and West African, culminating in an evening of dance that is representative of the diverse experiences of the BIPOC communities of Los Angeles. The high energy works accentuate the many paces, tempos and pulses of various street and social dance forms through a unique blend of choreography and freestyle elements. This mixed repertory program is a perfect way to introduce audiences to Hip Hop and Street Dance culture. This iteration of *Rooted Rhythms* will also introduce excerpts from Versa-Style's newest work *Tribute: Guardians of Street Dance*.

Run Time: Approximately 70 minutes, including a 15-minute intermission.

Freestyle sections were conceived by each individual artist.

ABOUT VERSA-STYLE STREET DANCE

Founded in 2005 by Los Angeles natives and co-artistic directors Jackie “Miss Funk” Lopez and Leigh “Breeze-Lee” Foaad, **Versa-Style Street Dance Company** was created to promote, empower and celebrate the artistry of Hip Hop and street dance culture. Named “Los Angeles’ Best Dance Troupe for Hip Hop Empowerment” by LA Weekly, Versa-Style is recognized for its electrifying performances and inspiring engagement activities for schools and local communities. Consisting of committed, highly skilled street dance artists and educators representative of the diversity and beautiful complexity of Los Angeles, Versa-Style Street Dance Company harnesses the exhilarating energy of street dance onto the concert stage for an unforgettable evening of dance.

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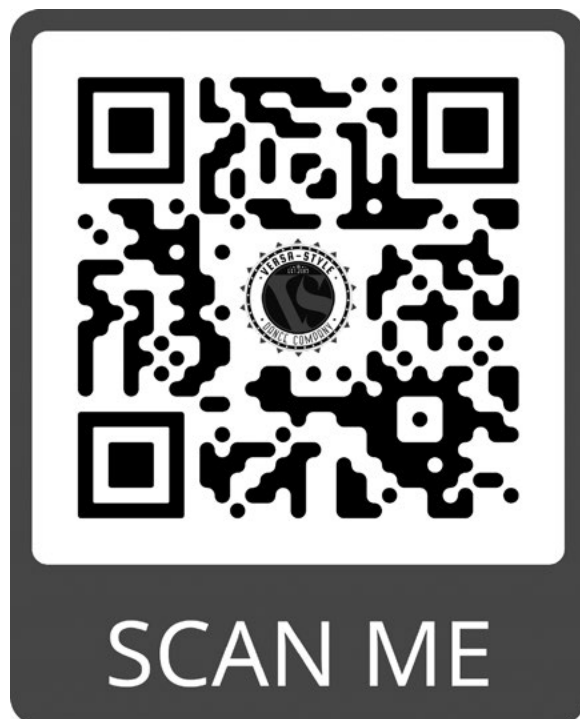
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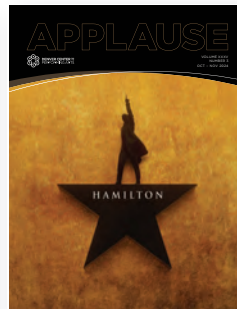


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Takács Quartet Announces Retirement of Founding Cellist András Fejér

Cellist **Mihai Marica** joins the quartet beginning Sept. 1, 2026



By Sabine Kortals Stein

The Takács Quartet—called “the essential quartet of our time” by The New York Times and fresh off a 50th anniversary season of international touring and critical acclaim—announced in December the retirement of cellist András Fejér, the last remaining member of the original Takács Quartet (founded in 1975). Fejér will step down at the end of the 2025-26 season after a remarkable 51-year tenure. The quartet’s newest member, Romanian-born cellist Mihai Marica, will join the Takács as of Sept. 1, 2026. As part of the ensemble’s longstanding residency at the University of Colorado Boulder, Marica will also join the College of Music faculty. The current members of the quartet are violinists Edward Dusinberre and Harumi Rhodes, violist Richard O’Neill and cellist András Fejér.

“We are so very grateful to András for the fulfilling and fun quartet work we’ve been lucky enough to share,” said Dusinberre, Rhodes and O’Neill, adding, “for the strength and integrity of his cello playing and musicianship sustained over more than five decades, for his friendship, support and humor. While cherishing András’ extraordinary legacy, we are thrilled to welcome Mihai as our new cellist. From the very first notes we played together with Mihai, we felt an instant musical connection and we eagerly look forward to the future.”

The first Takács season with Marica (2026-27) will include a focus on the music of Gabriela Lena Frank and a North American tour with Jeremy Denk performing César Franck's Piano Quintet. The Takács will also appear next season at Carnegie Hall and the Chamber Music Society Lincoln Center. As associate artists at Wigmore Hall, the quartet will perform four concerts including works by Franz Schubert, Carlos Simon, Johannes Brahms and Joseph Haydn.

Marica won first prize at the Dr. Luis Sigall International Competition in Viña del Mar, Chile, and the Irving M. Klein International Competition, and is a recipient of Charlotte White's Salon de Virtuosi Fellowship Grant. A dedicated chamber musician, he has performed at the Chamber Music Northwest, Norfolk, and Aspen music festivals where he has collaborated with such artists as Ani Kavafian, Ida Kavafian, David Shifrin, André Watts and Edgar Meyer. He was a member of the Amphion String Quartet and the Apollo Trio. He is an alumnus of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center's Bowers Program for extraordinary early-career artists and continues to perform on the CMS roster. A recent collaboration with dancer Lil Buck resulted in new pieces for solo cello written by Yevgeniy Sharlat and Patrick Castillo. He has performed with orchestras and in recital in the Americas, Europe and Asia.

"I am profoundly honored and humbled to be joining the Takács Quartet," said Marica. "I have been deeply inspired by the quartet's recordings and performances over the years. Joining the group is truly a dream come true. As an ardent admirer of András Fejér's musicianship, it has been a joy already to spend some time with him. I eagerly look forward to joining Ed, Harumi and Richard in continuing the Takács' time-honored tradition and exploring new paths ahead."

Fejér said, "After 51 years, this feels like it's the right time—I've had a beautifully rewarding quality of life working endlessly on the most inspiring music, with wonderful colleagues who became great friends, seeing the world and performing all over for appreciative audiences who always kept us honest. Heartfelt thanks to all the friends, supporters and presenters over the years—I'll miss you like mad but I'm excited for the quartet's future with Mihai. The pleasure has truly been mine!"

This news comes among many recent accolades including Chamber Music America's prestigious Richard J. Bogomolny National Service Award, announced in November and given in recognition of the Takács Quartet's immeasurable contributions to the chamber music field—and particularly the string quartet community.

Celebrate a Legacy, Support the Next Generation of String Players

This June, András Fejér, cellist, Ralph E. and Barbara L. Christoffersen Faculty Fellow and founding member of the Takács Quartet, will retire at the end of his 51st season on stage and in the classroom. András has shaped the artistry of hundreds of young musicians at the University of Colorado Boulder College of Music since 1986 and has helped build an international chamber music tradition in Boulder that continues to inspire audiences around the globe.

In recognition of his remarkable career, longtime arts supporters Richard Replin and Elissa Stein have established the András Fejér String Scholarship Fund. A native Coloradan, Richard and Elissa first heard the Takács Quartet perform in 1983, and he and Elissa have been passionate advocates for chamber music for decades. Their gift honors András' artistic legacy and humanity.

The fund provides scholarship support for violin, viola and cello students enrolled in performance degree programs at the College of Music. These awards help young artists focus on their studies, refine their craft and prepare for professional careers as performers, teachers and ensemble leaders.

In the spirit of encouraging broad community participation, Richard and Elissa will generously match all contributions to the fund, dollar for dollar.



We invite friends, alumni and supporters of the Takács Quartet to make a gift in András' honor. Your contribution will celebrate a lifetime of music making and support the next generation of string players at CU Boulder.

For further information, please contact Assistant Dean for Advancement Andrew Todd at atodd@colorado.edu.

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